

Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-01 ITFE-05 SCA-01 AID-05

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DRAFTED BY D/HA:LAWIESNER:AF/C JHALL

APPROVED BY IATF:JTAFT

IATF - J. BROH-KAHN

D/HA - JMWILSON

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R 261744Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO PENDLETON

FT CHAFFEE

EGLIN AFB

INDIANTOWN GAP

CINCPACREP GUAM

WAKE IS

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

UNCLAS STATE 177033

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SREF, UNHCR

SUBJECT:RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN GABON

REF: A. STATE 175421 B. LIBREVILLE 0627

1. UNHCR HAS INFORMED US THAT GOVT OF GABON WILL ACCEPT
QUOTE LIMITED NUMBER QUOTE OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES FOR RESET-
TLEMENT. THE OFFER DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT KINDS OF PERSONS,
BUT A UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH
GABON BELIEVES THAT PROFESSIONALS, INCLUDING MEDICAL DOCTORS,
AND SKILLED WORKERS WOULD BE PREFERRED. HE ADDED THAT
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KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH WOULD BE AN ASSET.

2. REPORTS FROM ADDRESSEE CAMPS INDICATE THAT ONLY FOUR (4) REFUGEES, ALL IN GUAM, HAVE REQUESTED RESETTLEMENT IN GABON. THEY HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN PROCESSED BUT HAVE NOT YET DEPARTED.

3. GABON HAS THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA INCOME IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS ARE FED BY ITS CONSIDERABLE MINERAL RESOURCES WHICH INCLUDE OIL, URANIUM AND IRON ORE. GABON HAS A LIBERAL FREE ECONOMY AND HAS ENCOURAGED FOREIGN INVESTMENT. THE COUNTRY IS UNDER POPULATED WITH ONLY ONE MILLION INHABITANTS. ALTHOUGH GABON IS COVERED WITH DENSE EQUATORIAL FOREST, THERE ARE MANY HIGHLAND

AREAS IN THE NORTH-EAST AND SOUTHEAST. THE BEAUTIFUL BEACHES OF THE SOUTHWEST ARE ONE OF THE ATTRACTIONS IN THE NEWLY-DEVELOPED TOURIST REGION.

4. PLEASE MAKE GABON OFFER KNOWN TO REFUGEES AND SEND TO IATF INFORMATION ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED. DATA SHOULD INCLUDE NAMES, DATES AND PLACES OF BIRTH OF FAMILY MEMBERS, EDUCATIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUNDS OF EMPLOYABLE FAMILY MEMBERS, THEIR EMPLOYMENT SKILLS AND OBJECTIVES, LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS, MATERIAL ASSETS IF ANY, AND STATE OF HEALTH.

5. WE ARE FOLLOWING UP WITH UNHCR AND ICEM TO SEE WHICH OTHER LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES FROM THE U.S. SYSTEM. WE SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF RESPONSES. INGERSOLL

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